The A. F. of L. Weekly News Letter contains a brief summary of important matters affecting labor, occuring in the industrial, legislative, and judicial fields, and such other information that will benefit the trade union movement.

AMERICAN FEDERATION OF LABOR

WEEKLY NEWS LETTER

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AGITATE!
EDUCATE!
ORGANIZE!

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BACK OF YOUR BALLOT IS BUNKER HILL! : : : : :

The American labor movement cannot and will not argue to the voters of America with dollars. It argues only with facts and for principles.

The American labor movement believes that the purpose of politics is to provide the utmost of progress, freedom and justice for the masses of the people of this Republic.

This is our Republic. It belongs to all the people.

It is our Republic for the purpose of self-improvement and advancement.

This nation was made free and independent, built upon great democratic principles, so that the people might always have an open door to progress through their own efforts and so that they might share equally the opportunities of democracy.

We have free political expression as a means of making progress toward higher ideals and better lives.

We have a secret ballot so that every voice may be equal in our political life.

These things are so.

We do not have to have a reactionary government unless we want it.

We can have a progressive, just government if we will vote for it.

We can defeat every enemy of the people and elect every friend of the people if we will.

It all depends upon us.

It is a duty that rests upon us—upon all of us alike.

Kings and czars have fallen that we might have this precious right to direct our own political destiny. It is not many years in the world's history since men dared not utter an independent thought.

Even to spread the printed word was a crime but yesterday.

Even to speak against authority was but yesterday punishable by death.

But yesterday has gone. Today we have the freedom and the obligation of today—and we look toward tomorrow.

The ballot upon which Americans will vote this November was bought dearly. Men have died for it. Rich blood has been shed for it. Men have gone into conflict with the devout fervor of crusaders in their hearts, with the divine fire of great courage in their eyes—that you may take a ballot into a booth and freely vote your will in the conduct of our Republic.

Vote righteously upon that ballot.

Let no shamed traitor benefit by what you put upon that simple piece of hallowed paper.

Let no corrupt thing gain life by the vote you cast. Let nothing but that which is true and honorable and tested gain prestige from the little cross you mark upon that ballot.

Behind that ballot is the dim etching of Bunker Hill. In its fiber is the agony of Valley Forge. In its texture is the stuff of heroes and of men who held liberty and honor above all things and who set the cause of justice and democracy ahead of life itself.

You cannot sanctify the ballot. But it is your duty to the glorious past and to the promising future to sanctify the vote you put upon it. Let there be no shame in November!

OPPOSE LABOR BOARDS.

New York, Sept. 11.—Five large associations of business men in this city have protested to the United States railway labor board (created by the Cummins-Esch law) against the establishment of national adjustment boards to settle disputes between rail managers and employes.

When the government operated the railroads it established three boards. No. 1 handled grievances involving engineers, firemen, conductors and trainmen; No. 2 handled shop crafts' grievances, and No. 3 handled grievances of telegraphers, maintenance-of-way men, switchmen and signalmen. These boards still function. They interpret rules over which managers and employes differ and in some cases adjust wage grievances.

The railroad managers want these boards abolished and business men, who publicly demand that machinery be set up to settle differences, are aiding managers in an effort to secure the final word in grievances.

One of the advocates of this plan is Vice President Atterbury, of the Pennsylvania railroad system, who testified before a commission created by congress, a few years ago, that "the general manager of the Pennsylvania is the final court of appeal on labor matters."

These business men want old conditions re-established and then, in the event of a strike, they will get interviewed in the public press on the need for the government to establish a tribunal before which these cases may be heard.

URGE AUTOMATIC DEVICES.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Automatic train control devices are recommended by W. P. Borland of the interstate commerce commission in a report on a New York railroad wreck, last June, that resulted in the death of 15 persons and the injury of 42 others.

"In view of the accident record of the last several years, which includes many accidents of the character of this one on roads where the best trained and most competent men are employed," says the report, "it is believed that failures of the human element in connection with train operation such as led to this accident cannot be fully checked or provided against except by use of an automatic train control system to supplement existing block signals for the purpose of compelling obedience to signal indications."

PICKETERS RELEASED.

Trenton, N. J., Sept. 11.—Vice Chancellor Buchanan has ordered the jail release of several striking machinists employed by the Bijur Motor Appliances company at Hoboken, pending appeal to the court of errors.

The machinists were ordered not to picket the plant. They insisted that they have the right to tell other workers of their grievances and disobeyed the injunction. They were sentenced to three months in jail and fined $50 for contempt of court.

WORKERS LEAVE SOUTH.

Laurel, Miss., Sept. 11.—There is a continual emigration into the northern and western states owing to the low wages and poor working conditions in this vicinity. Trade unionists urge workers to unite that conditions may be improved and they can stay at home.

BOILER MAKERS OUT.

Galveston, Texas, Sept. 11.—Employers of boiler makers have the anti-union bug and refuse to renew an agreement with the Boiler Makers' union. The men have suspended work.

LABORERS ORGANIZE.

Marietta, Ohio, Sept. 11.—Hod carriers and building laborers have organized and affiliated with the bona fide trade union movement.

ACTORS WANT UNION SHOP.

New York, Sept. 11.—Members of the Actors' Equity association, affiliated with the A. F. of L., will vote on whether they will refuse to appear on any stage with non-Equity actors. The union shop, if adopted, will apply for the present only to managers who are not members of the Producing Managers' association, as the Equity's agreement with that organization has four years to run.

The actors call the union shop "equity" shop. They insist that non-Equity members are deriving all the benefits organized actors have made possible, and that all should pay for benefits received.

The members of the Actors' Equity association include the most prominent actors on the American stage. During their recent strike they forced scores of theaters in this city to remain dark, and despite blood-curdling oaths by the managers that they would not recognize the Equities, the actors' solidarity and support by organized labor forced the managers to accept new viewpoints.

SAILORS NOT BLAMED.

San Francisco, Sept. 11.—Commenting on the relatively high cost of operating American merchant ships, the San Francisco Chronicle says that "it is not sailors' wages which constitute the main item of expense, but fuel, repairs, insurance and depreciation."

To this statement the Seamen's Journal replies:

"Seamen will breathe a good deal easier now that so well informed an organ of big business as the Chronicle has publicly acknowledged that it isn't they who are driving much harried American ship owners into bankruptcy. Of course, the seamen have all along been conscious of their own blamelessness in that respect, but exoneration of wrong doing is none the less welcome on that account, especially when coming from the chief accuser in the past."

NON-PARTISANSHIP WINS.

Topeka, Kan., Sept. 11. — The farmer-labor non-partisan movement in this state succeeded in defeating for renomination 11 state senators at the recent primary. These senators favored the Allen "can't-strike" law. As they are now retired to private life they will have more time to study the fundamental theory of American liberty and democracy.

The non-partisans declare that the primary elections cleared the decks and that they will surely defeat Governor Allen next November.

LUMBER PRICES TOO HIGH.

Washington, Sept. 11. — Lumber prices have risen out of proportion to increased costs of production and distribution, says the United States forestry service. This government bureau finds that "recent high prices of lumber, news-print, turpentine and other forest products have seriously affected many industries and in various ways have imposed formidable burdens on the public."

WONT TREAT WITH UNIONS.

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 11. — The local street car company shows that all czars and kaisers do not live abroad. It has refused to negotiate a new agreement with its organized platform employes and these workers are now on strike.

IRON MOLDERS GAIN.

Brainerd, Minn., Sept. 11. — Iron molders have given unorganized workers in this city a hint by raising wages 15 cents an hour.

PRESSMEN RAISE WAGES.

Tampa, Fla., Sept. 11.—Organized printing pressmen employed in commercial shops have raised wages to $38 a week for job presses and $40 for cylinder machines.

FRENZIED OPPONENTS WOULD SIDETRACK LABOR

Washington, Sept. 11.—Reaction is angered at the publication of the records of its political agents, and it is attempting to switch labor from the main line of non-partisanship by attacks on A. F. of L. officials and President Gompers especially.

These records stand stern, hard-featured facts that cannot be explained away. So big business ignores them and would lead the workers into a blind alley by attacks on A. F. of L. officials who have published these records under instructions of the organized wage earners.

Special interests assume a virtuous pose, as it always does when cornered. The "morality" of big business is shocked at what it terms "an attempt to deliver labor's vote." These trade union opponents and labor injunction advocates, these defenders of special privilege, corruptors of the electorate, exploiters of women and children and organizers of gun men and private armies all express alarm that labor will be "delivered." They ignore the records and would gladly have labor follow them into alleys of their making.

The unbroken list of non-partisan declarations by the A. F. of L., since its inception in 1881, is nothing to reaction. Numerous instructions of A. F. of L. conventions that its officials compile and publish records of candidates for office, to be used as a guide to wage earners and other forward-looking citizens, is ignored by defenders of big business.

Switch labor from the main line by abusing officials who are carrying out these instructions is the sickly policy of forces that know no creed but frenzied partisanship, back-stairs methods and jobbery.

Records in favor of handcuffing workers to their jobs are awkward things to defend in an election campaign. Votes to lengthen the work day of government clerks are embarrassing between now and next November. Approval of the Cummins-Esch railroad bill, the Taylor and other sweat shop systems in government plants, declarations in favor of individual bargaining and against trade unionism, war with Mexico that the natural resources of that country may be seized, friendship for labor injunctions—all these are obstacles in the hunt for votes.

But these records and declarations stand. They are facts that cannot be defended or explained by election-time "friends" of labor. Reaction's sole answer is the only one possible—smoke screens. Attacks on individual trade unionists, who are pictured as doing something morally wrong when they publish the facts.

All this from forces that acknowledge but one moral crime—when workers are urged to cast an independent ballot, or when they are urged to join trade unions.

BURLESON'S RECORD 100 PER CENT ANTI

Washington, Sept. 11.—Postmaster General Burleson has maintained his 100 per cent opposition to an independent worker by his discharge of 11 officers of the Chicago Postal Clerks' union.

In their publicity campaign the clerks used statements that were made at hearings before congress and the 11 officials are dismissed on the ground of violation of law that debars employes from soliciting gifts. The union published a program of an entertainment in which advertisements were printed.

The average length of service of the victimized employes is 15 years, with one man nearly 25 years. These men are only qualified for the postal service, from which they are now debarred. They also lose their interest in the civil service pension.

The latest move by the postal autocrat is in accord with a policy that he has rigidly maintained. During the war when postal employes asked higher wages to meet advancing living costs, the postmaster general declared that they were now getting three times the amount paid a soldier. He made no mention of his wage, however, which is over 30 times more than a soldier received.

He has opposed organization of employes that can not be controlled, he has opposed wage increases, he has recommended that the law providing that eight hours' work shall be done in a period of 10 be amended to eight in 12, and he has opposed time and one-half for overtime, despite the president's declaration for an eight-hour day.

Practically all of the officers of postal employes' national unions are men who have been dismissed by the postmaster general because of their protests against servitude and their demands that postal employes be treated as Americans.

URGE NEBRASKA FREEDOM.

Washington, Sept. 11.—In a letter, to all Nebraska affiliates of the A. F. of L., President Gompers calls attention to a proposed industrial commission for the purpose of administering laws relative to labor disputes. An effort is being made to amend the Nebraska constitution along these lines and President Gompers declares that this would be as inimical to the interests of the workers and farmers as is the court of industrial relations act of Kansas, upon which it was patterned, and would result in compulsory labor for the workers.

In a letter to Frank M. Coffey, secretary of the Nebraska state federation of labor, reference is made to the resolution against this proposal by the last convention of the A. F. of L.

The adoption of this provision, says President Gompers, will not only hamper the normal activities of labor, but of the farmers, and will react upon the whole people. Such a provision in the constitution would not be in the interest of the people, but for the aggrandizement of a few who hide behind the expression 'the public welfare,' said the A. F. of L. executive.

FAVORS CITY BUILT HOMES.

New York, Sept. 11.—At a housing conference in this city Governor Smith said the housing crisis is so serious that the state legislature should give this city the power to build houses. In the interest of the public health and the public welfare, the legislature might well delegate its police power and its police authority to any of its municipalities during the existence of the crisis, said the state executive.

A Wall street clerk told the conference that he earns $35 a week. He has a wife and six children and apartments that formerly rented at $30 a month are now renting at $80 and $90, and he was forced to move into a dark cellar, where the janitor, with five children, is attempting to oust him.

CO-OP. STORE PROSPERS.

Barnesboro, Pa., Sept. 11.—The co-operative store started by organized labor, and capitalized at $15,000, is a success and the venture is awakening workers to the unlimited field of co-op. action.

CARPENTERS RAISE WAGES.

Portland, Me., Sept. 11.—The Carpenters' union raised wages from 67½ cents an hour to $1 an hour.

BUILDING GUILD PLAN GAINING IN ENGLAND

Manchester, England, Sept. 11.—The Manchester Guardian, one of England's foremost liberal newspapers, states that at last the government has the sense to acknowledge that the national building guild plan "has the roots of a solution" of the housing question.

This plan, says the Guardian, "cuts out the middleman, and it guarantees continuous employment to the operative. The government has learned both these lessons from the guild and is tardily making tentative experiments itself in both direct and continuous employment. It has even had the sense to acknowledge that the guild plan, as such, has the roots of a solution in it, and to encourage local authorities to adopt it."

The guild was started by organized building craftsmen. It includes these workers, technicians and administrators, who volunteer to erect houses and other construction. Profits are placed at the disposal of the guild to improve the service and to pay wages to workers who are unemployed or who are idle because of weather conditions. The guild has entered into contractural relations with the co-operative wholesale society for the necessary material and with the co-operative insurance society for the necessary insurance.

The guild plan has spread to London, where it has been approved by the district council of the National Federation of Building Trade Operatives.

OPPOSE PIECE WORK.

Brussels, Belgium, Sept. 11.—Opposition to piece work was recorded by the annual convention of the National Metal Workers' union, which has grown from 18,000 in 1919 to 146,000 this year.

During the past several months the union has waged many successful fights for a minimum wage and the eight-hour day.

At a special convention of the Railway Employes' Federation it was voted to refer to the referendum the question of accepting the government's plan to establish a joint railway commission of an equal number of employe and employer representatives appointed by the minister of labor on recommendation of both parties in interest.

Opposition to the commission is based on the belief that it will devitalize the trade union by taking over much of its work. The convention favored the plan and has passed it to the referendum for final action.

PEACE TIME "GOOD FELLOWS."

Chicago, Sept. 11.—Several thousand youngsters from the steel district of South Chicago were recently entertained by the "good fellow club" of the Illinois Steel company, and Editor Tracy of the Union Clay Worker recalls that this club or its president, who is superintendent of the steel mills, did not arrange any picnics for these children when their fathers were on strike a few months ago to secure improved conditions.

"This corporation," says Editor Tracy, "had hundreds of thugs and gun men on the job ready to shoot down the striking steel workers on the slightest provocation, but that was during the strike when they were forced to show their hand. Now that the strike is over, they ride and dine the children of these same strikers."

TIP STRIKEBREAKERS.

Nashville, Tenn., Sept. 11.—Treat your strikebreakers kindly and occasionally give them a small present, is the advice of officers of the Tennessee Manufacturers' association to officers of the Nashville street car company, which is attempting to establish the non-union shop. Nashville business are urged to also pat the strikebreakers on the back and to assure these "independent" workers that their fight for non-unionism is appreciated by every low wage employer in this city.

FRENCH CO-OPS. PROSPER.

Paris, France, Sept. 11. — The French wholesale co-operative society has done business this year to the amount of over 150,000,000 francs. In 1914 the business totaled 19,000,000 francs. In Douai the co-ops. reduced the price of foodstuffs 33 per cent, much to the disgust of profiteers and to the joy of wage earners.

TRUST'S SPOKESMAN TOLD TO FACE FACTS

New York, Sept. 11.—In an open letter to the Iron Age, semi-official organ of the steel trust and defender of Garyism, officers of the interchurch world movement suggest that this publication "face the facts." The editor is asked:

"Are cold facts on an actually existant autocracy to be met forever by trite fears of another, non-existant autocracy, or by talk of 'wonderful progress,' when the hours in the industry are longer now than 10 years ago? Are blacklists and spy systems the industry's pride?"

The church men say that among independent steel mill owners there are men who profess repugnance to the present system of refusing to confer with workers and the means used to maintain Garyism, but for reasons concerning the steel trust they claim they are unable to speak out.

The church men have also appealed to the public to take whatever steps are possible, through organization or otherwise, to avert another steel strike and consequent nation-wide trouble. This letter asks:

"The 12-hour day, involving hundreds of thousands; the seven-day week; wages that make for unhealthy communities and an underfed race; arbitrary management which penalizes the American spirit and corrupts its institutions—is the reform of all this to be left simply to the hazard of a strike?

"Cannot a democracy govern itself? Must the public, forewarned, rest inert while a basic industry prepares trouble for all? Just because the strike is some way off, or because the national campaign to allocate our political governance is on, is the great democracy to let economic governance go by sheer default?"

MAKE GAS FROM STRAW.

Washington, Sept. 11.—The department of agriculture is experimenting with wheat, oat and rye straw to secure a new combustible for use for automobiles and cooking, but work on this commercial possibility is hampered by a lack of funds. The department states that it has been possible to operate an automobile with straw gas and that 50 pounds of straw will produce about 300 cubic feet of gas — an amount sufficient to drive a light roadster 15 miles. By-products from the straw, it is stated, may prove useful in the dye industry.

These scientists are struggling to perfect this discovery with a measre appropriation that congress grudgingly doles out to the agriculture department. This policy of congress is in line with its attitude toward all scientific, educational and related movements maintained by the government.

POLITICIAN SCORED.

St. Louis, Mo., Sept. 11.—Clarence B. Miller, secretary of the republican committee, was scored by the convention of National Federation of Federal Employes. Mr. Miller advanced a wondrous scheme in Washington a few days ago to reduce the cost of living by having the government dismiss 300,000 employes. In their resolution the unionists said:

"The dismissal of 300,000 employes other than postal employes would leave but 40,000 employes for the entire federal service throughout the United States.

Some of the delegates advised the politician to look for monopolists—if such a course would not affect contributions to the campaign fund.

BIG BIZ OPPOSED SUFFS.

Chattanooga, Tenn., Sept. 11.—In a speech to trade unionists in this city Secretary-Treasurer Birthwright of the Tennessee state federation of labor declared that big business was lined up against the woman's suffrage amendment, which was adopted by the Tennessee legislature. He said the Tennessee Manufacturers' association, the Louisville & Nashville railroad and all other forms of privilege were on hand to force rejection of the amendment by the same methods that they always used in opposing labor legislation.

WANT EIGHT-HOUR DAY.

Holyoke, Mass., Sept. 11.—Street car men in this city are demanding an eight-hour day and wage increases.

UNIONIZED WORKERS MAKE MANAGER MAD

Philadelphia, Sept. 11.—W. A. Atterbury, vice president of the Pennsylvania railroad, is as mad as the proverbial hornet because employes of that system are unionized. Mr. Atterbury unburdened his woes to the local chamber of commerce. He said the Pennsylvania was strictly non-union when the government took control and now, to his horror, he finds when this property is returned it is organized, to use his language, "from stem to stern."

The speaker's sorrowful tale would bring tears to a paving block and a sympathetic audience agreed that labor "broke its promise during the war." Mr. Atterbury construed the government's promise that there would be no reduction of labor standards during the war to mean that when the government took control of the railroads it should maintain the Pennsylvania's anti-union policy. Instead, Director General of Railroads McAdoo, in order No. 8, said:

"No discrimination will be made in the employment, retention or conditions of employment of employes because of membership or non-membership in labor organizations."

As a result of this order, employes of the Pennsylvania railroad organized and now Mr. Atterbury predicts evil days for capital (meaning capitalists) since his spy system no longer functions.

This is the same Mr. Atterbury who testified before the commission on industrial relations in 1915 that in the previous year his company spent $800,000, taken from the people in the form of freight and passenger charges, to maintain a private army and a Pinkerton spy system to make organization of labor impossible. Atterbury defended his private army on the ground that a state-controlled police force is a beautiful theory but does not work in practice.

ACTORS GOOD UNIONISTS.

Washington, Sept. 11.—The actor is a trade union enthusiast, says Frank Gillmore, executive secretary of the Actors' Equity association, writing in the American Federationist.

"Through labor," says the actor-unionist, "we have won recognition of our association, we have won the right to collective bargaining, we have trebled our membership, and increased our financial resources eight or ten times. Labor is responsible for all this. Once more our deepest thanks and gratitude to the A. F. of L. and its mighty leaders.

"Now a word as to the future. The Actors' Equity association has secured temporary jurisdiction over authors and composers and in a few months we hope to have a number of them in our ranks. The A. F. of L. has suffered in the past from unfair printed reports, but we can hope for a square deal when the writers join our ranks and in their articles and plays tell the great truth about the movement."

CO-OPS. TO CATCH FISH.

Manchester, England, Sept. 11.—With their purchase from the British government of 200 steam trawlers, the Mine Sweepers' Co-operative society has acquired the largest fishing fleet in the world under one management. The boats were built for naval service during the war, and the co-ops. will pay for them during the next 20 years. It is proposed to operate the fleet on co-operative lines, from coaling and storing the vessels to selling the fish, principally to members of the British co-op. movement. The required capital of $10,000,000 is being subscribed by the co-op. societies.

SPANISH PRINTERS GAIN.

Madrid, Spain, Sept. 11.—The annual report of the Spanish Typographical union shows a membership of 7,000. The union is strongest in this city and weakest in Barcelona, which is noted for the anarchistic tendencies of its workers.

PASS 25,000 MARK.

Indianapolis, Sept. 11.—The International Brotherhood of Bookbinders has passed the 25,000 mark. Officers of that organization do not seem to be satisfied, however, and they announce that the figures must read "26,000."

STRIKERS JAILED BY INJUNCTION JUDGE

Denver, Sept. 11.—Justice Bailey of the Colorado state supreme court has declined to review the conviction of seven members of the Denver Street Car Men's union, who were sentenced to three months in jail by District Court Judge Whitford for contempt of court when the street car men suspended work.

In their appeal to the supreme court, attorneys for the unionists submit these questions:

"Can a district court sitting as a court of equity in Colorado enjoin employes from striking and quitting the service of their employer for better working conditions or better wages? If such an injunction is disobeyed, can the employes be held in contempt and punished therefor?"

"To ask these two questions is to answer them," continue the attorneys. "The answer is 'no' to both questions. It is difficult to characterize the proceedings in the court below. It is still more difficult to calmly review them and comment upon them.

"Here is a judicial proceeding, an injunctive writ, for which there is no warrant in law, nor by statute, nor by common law, nor by any constitutional provision, nor by line, word or syllable of any decided case in the United States or of any state in the union. The proposition is so novel that it would challenge our surprise if it were not so dangerous to the liberty of men."

The attorneys show that the Colorado law, section 3924, states that workers have the right to organize and to strike. The only restraint in this state now is the recently enacted "can't-strike" law, which makes it unlawful to strike until the state industrial commission acts. The workers complied with this law and the commission's award disposed of the case as far as the commission is concerned.

When the street car men struck Judge Whitford ordered the arrest of the seven unionists, denied them a trial by jury and put them in jail for 90 days. Attorneys for the convicted men appealed to the state supreme court to review the proceedings, but this has been denied.

In their petition to the state's highest court, the attorneys said:

"If a district court can hold citizens in contempt and send them to jail and actually imprison them for disobedience of an unlawful injunction in this case, then a district court sitting in Colorado can issue injunctions of any character and imprison citizens who disobey them. Where, then, are the liberties of the people of Colorado if this sort of a proceeding can be upheld?

"If a district court can enjoin men from striking for a day, it can enjoin them for a year or a century. If a district court can enjoin men from striking either for shorter hours, higher wages or better working conditions, then the working people of Colorado are bound in chains to their employers and can never again collectively assert their right to improve their standard of living or their lot in life.

"We assert that if this alleged principle of law is upheld we have reached a condition of involuntary servitude among the working people of Colorado, and involuntary servitude is prohibited by the constitution of Colorado and of the United States.

"If a court of equity can enjoin men from striking, as has been done in this case, then we assert that fundamental constitutional provisions have been violated."

In denying the accused a trial by jury Judge Whitford violated another state law, which provides that where contempt is not committed in the presence of the court, the person arrested must be accorded a trial by jury when such demand is made.

Judge Whitford ignored still another section of Colorado law by refusing to grant the accused a stay of proceedings.

GOMPERS "APOLOGIZES" TO REACTIONARY PAPER

Washington, Sept. 11.—The publication of the Harding and Cox records, by the platform committee of the A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee, effected the Washington Post as a lighted match effects gunpowder. This newspaper charged President Gompers with "Telling Labor What to Think."

In a letter to the Washington Post President Gompers said that the article "was mighty interesting reading and, as you intended, I feel very much rebuked by it."

"And, perhaps," continued the trade unionist, "you would have me offer a humble apology for daring to pursue the course I have in this political campaign.

"How dare the organized wage workers of the United States have the temerity to enter a campaign of defeating the big interests which seek to oppress the toilers?

"How dare they look into the records and life work and characteristics of men who aspire to the highest offices within the gift of the people?

"How dare they select a committee to search the records and activities of those who aspire to the positions of greatest influence and power in the republic?

"How dare they distinguish between reactionary toryism and progressive humanitarism?

"How dare they lay these facts bare before the workers and citizenship generally of our republic?

"These prerogatives belong to the corporations, 'big business' and their apologists and defenders, such as the Washington Post. The steel trust, the railroads, the textiles, the princes of finance and the associations of corporate bodies must, forsooth, be accorded exclusive right to advise. They must have the additional right to cajole, to coerce, to raise slush funds to buy the highest offices in our country.

"The Washington Post, with the other mouthpieces and apologists of reaction, has failed to comprehend either the industrial or the sociological situation of the peoples of the world, including the United States.

"The organized labor movement of America has steadfastly stood for progress, for reform as against violence and revolution, and the entire course of the A. F. of L., industrially and politically, is governed by that source. You not only antagonize these both, but attempt to hold up to ridicule and contempt the chosen representatives of the men and women of labor who dare have the temerity to express the practically unanimous expression of 4,500,000 wage earners organized in our Federation. The Washington Post would apparently prefer to invite and encourage the discordant elements of destruction rather than the constructive group who work for progress and evolution.

"Will you do me the kindness to publish this apology to the Washington Post in an early issue of your newspaper?"

MAY DISCHARGE UNIONISTS.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Disregarding contrary decisions by the United States supreme court, a local of the Brotherhood of Railway Trainmen asked Justice Siddons of the District of Columbia supreme court to restrain an interurban street car company from discharging employes because they belong to the brotherhood.

All that the trainmen can show for their effort is an adverse decision and a bill for attorney's services.

The court cited decisions by the United States supreme court in the Adair case of Kentucky and the Coppage case of Kansas, in which it was held that an employer has the right to discharge for any reason he sees fit. In the Adair case the court set aside an act of congress, passed in 1898, which made it unlawful for an employer to discharge a worker because of trade union affiliation.

These decisions are based on the theory that employers have the right to discharge for any reason they see fit and that workers have equal right to quit their employment for any reason or no reason.

DEMAND STRIKE RIGHT.

Brussels, Belgium, Sept. 11.—At the annual convention of the Belgium Trade Union Federation the government was called upon to remove restrictions against workers who would strike to improve conditions.

The workers are demanding the same liberty against enforced labor that Belgium people demanded when the Germans invaded this country.

Legally Belgium workers have the right to strike, but judicial decisions have reached the point where strikers are penalized as violators of "liberty to labor." The government promised to remove these restrictions, but, as yet has failed to do so.

The trade unionists also demand that the government increase out-of-work benefits, which now amount to but a pittance and fall far short of supplementing the trade union benefits, as it was intended to do.

COAL PRODUCTION GROWS.

Washington, Sept. 11.—Strikes in the coal industry is not affecting production, according to the United States geological survey.

During the week ending August 28 bituminous coal mined totaled 11,374,000 tons. This is an increase of nearly 500,000 tons over the preceding week. Anthracite production totaled 1,800,000 net tons for the week ending August 28, an increase of 205,000 tons over the preceding week. During this period there were several thousand anthracite miners on strike in the Pittston (Pa) district.

TRADE UNIONS PRAISED.

Ottawa, Ontario, Sept. 11.—In a report issued by the Canadian department of labor this reference is made to affiliates of the A. F. of L.:

"In Canada the international trade unions have a total membership of about 200,000; their policies are well known. In the industrial field they endeavor, by crafts, to negotiate agreements with employers by direct conference or arbitration, a strike always being a last resort."

CONTRACTORS IN NET.

Washington, Sept. 11.—The war department announces that millions of dollars are involved in suits against war work contractors. As a beginning 224 contractors are charged with grafting.

"HELLO" GIRLS GAIN.

Tiffin, Ohio, Sept. 11.—Organized labor assisted telephone operators here to secure wage increases that range from 25 to 40 per cent.

BARBERS LOCKED OUT.

Rockford, Ill., Sept. 11.—Barbers in this city have been forced on the streets by employers who refuse to pay prevailing rates.

TO ASK WOMEN'S SUPPORT.

Washington, Sept. 11.—The A. F. of L. national non-partisan political campaign committee has suggested to four-minute speakers that the attention of women voters be called to labor's political program for better home, the care of children and the elimination of child labor for profit. Referring to this feature of labor's demands, the committee says:

"Outside of the fact that we have aided in bringing about recognition of women's rights as citizens, we believe that labor's record in conserving the playtime of the child, in demanding and securing legislation restricting hours and demanding sanitary surroundings for women in industry; initiating the public school system and always in the forefront for improvements in the educational departments of the government, better remuneration for teachers, better schoolhouses, will appeal to the women voters when properly presented.

"The members of organized labor, and particularly those who are directing the local non-partisan political campaigns, should devote their energies to instructing women in the forms of registering and voting by inviting them to the meetings of the committees and by holding meetings especially for women voters at which political policies shall be discussed, the laws relating to elections explained and the reasons given for registering as a preliminary to voting."

WE GET WHAT WE DESERVE.

Los Angeles, Sept. 11.—In urging workers to take a greater interest in political affairs, and vote for their own interest, the Los Angeles Citizen, trade union publication, says:

"In California—which has equal suffrage, the initiative, the referendum and the recall—the people get exactly the kind of government they deserve.

"Were they to pay any attention whatsoever to their own business on election day it would be utterly impossible for the corporations to elect crooked judges and to fill the legislature with messengers of big business.

"Men and women whose existence depends upon the labor of themselves, and not upon the toil of others, should, whenever possible, vote for their kind of candidates.

"When the common people attend to their own political business it will be attended to, but not until then.

"Remember, we get exactly the kind of government we deserve."

WILL RUN NON-UNION.

Mobile, Ala., Sept. 11.—Several shipbuilding and ship repair shops in this city have declared for the non-union shop. Recently metal workers struck for higher wages and improved working conditions, and now the yards declare for individual bargaining. They will employ union men, they say, but they want it understood that not enough will be employed to make effective any change in working conditions.

This system is what the employers call the "American" plan.

WHY NEWS PRINT IS HIGH.

Montreal, Quebec, Sept. 11.—Total profits of the Spanish river pulp and paper mills equaled 22¼ per cent on its common stock, last year, it is announced. This profit was made after liberal allowance for depreciation and all other charges, including royal salaries to managers, were met.

TOWNS ARE EMPLOYERS.

Olympia, Wash., Sept. 11. — The state attorney general has ruled that a township is a municipal employer and that employes of such townships are entitled to compensation under the state liability law.

ABANDON PIECE WORK.

Johnetta, Pa., Sept. 11.—Through organization brick yard workers changed the piece work system to day work and secured wage increases for all day labor.